

Conductor

1st El Alto Saxophone
2nd El Alto Saxophone
1st El Tanan Saxophone

1st Bl Tenor Saxophone

2nd Bb Tenor Saxophone (Optional)

Eb Baritone Saxophone (Optional)

1st Bb Trumpet 2nd Bb Trumpet

3rd B♭ Trumpet (Optional)

1st Trombone

2nd Trombone (Optional)

3rd Trombone (Optional)

Guitar Chords
Guitar (Optional)

Piano

Bass

Drums

Optional Alternate Parts

C Flute Tuba Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone) Baritone T.C. (Doubles 1st Trombone)



FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Neal Hefti composed "Splanky" for the legendary Count Basie was Basie's nickname, derived from his unique style of piano voicing and sparse phrasing. An immediate favorite, "Splanky" is still performed by the Basie band today. I have tried to maintain the integrity of the piece while making it accessible to young musicians.

The rooftop accent (A) is used throughout the arrangement. The rooftop accent is detaches but not staccato; think "daht" as a syllable to describe the rooftop accent. This accent is typical in jazz notation, and it is important that this accent be recognized and played accurately.

After the intro, saxes introduce the melody echoes by the piano and adding the brass on the repeat. Uniform articulation is critical for all the wind players.

The piano solo at measure 21 should be played lightly, recalling Basie's distinctive style. Give the students an opportunity to hear the demonstration CD and, if possible, a recording of the Basie band for further reference. Brass accents lead into an alto sax solo accompanied by a background sax line with brass accents. The background figures should start softly and crescendo into the shout chorus in measure 45. If desired, the solos sections can be repeated with minor adjustments to the backgrounds. Both solos are 12-bar blues in E-flat concert. Regarding the improvised solos, I suggest the students first learn the written solos and then, when comfortable, begin to embellish the written solos rhythmically and melodically. This is a start toward basic improvisation.

In measure 49, I introduce what is commonly known as a ghost note. A ghosted note is an unaccented note where the pitch and articulation are suggested or implied rather than played full. In this figure, this first note of the crescendos beginning on the first and third beats is ghosted into the next note. This is a very effective phrasing technique.

After a brief bass solo, the main theme returns with trumpets and alto saxes first stating the melody and then echoes by the tenor and baritone saxes and trombones. The chart closes with a signature Basie piano ending with a little vocal support from the other members of the rhythm section. If desired, all the students can shout the "Count Basie" ending.

Please enjoy.

—Roy Phillippe







An active composer/arranger in a variety of genres, Roy Phillippe has written a prolific body of work that has been performed by many leading ensembles, and has worked with such musical legends as Stan Kenton and Henry Mancini. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from Kent State University (OH).



















